



tattersalls

newsletter february 2003



• TATTS Wins

The Tattersall's New Year's Day race meeting at Randwick was as usual a great event for club members and guests, but an even greater success for member Charlie Plumridge.

Charlie had entered his promising young galloper 'Hinting' in the 2 Year Old Tattersall's race as a tryout for the 'English Classic' at the same track later in the month.

'Hinting' had members cheering as it rocketed home in first place to win a tidy \$25,000.

Charlie described his feelings as "Ecstatic". He was even more ecstatic a few weeks later when 'Hinting' claimed second in the 'English Classic' winning a further \$50,000.

Charlie and his partners currently have eight horses in training.



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from the chairman

I can remember in a previous note asking the rhetorical question "why does a club like Tattersall's Club exist ?" I might well have asked "what is it about our club that makes it increasingly relevant into the 21st century, long after our central purpose of being a regulator of gaming and betting in this State has ceased?".

A willingness, and the ability, to change with the times and to meet the needs of the current crop of members is part of the answer. Over time, we have broadened our interests away from racing to be a centre of interest for sport and sportsmen of all kinds. Today, we are less concerned with spectator sports; our members are nearly all participants at one level or another.

Our Athletic Department, at one time a curiosity piece in a city where 'city club' meant bar and restaurant, has remained a central plank in our clubhouse. So too our billiards and snooker rooms. Both facilities offer the very best to city members whose sporting and fitness focus can coincide close to their place of work and at times to suit their schedule. Add to that the chance to engage in a range of activities as diverse as touch football, skiing and fly fishing with fellows whose enthusiastic approach to life is likely to be similar to your own and the attraction and the resulting fraternity become inevitable.

So, going into 2003, the Committee and our staff have seen to it that the Club is looking splendid. All of our facilities, without exception, have had the once over and will be a pleasure to show off to your friends and family. While much has happened behind the scenes in the Athletic Department, our new manager, Brad Pamp is offering a revitalised program to young and old alike. If it has crossed your mind that 2003 is the year to get back that level of fitness that you know you want and need to be at your best, now is the time to get started. I can assure you that you will be made very welcome and can guarantee a lowering of the dreaded stress levels as an early reward.

I expect that the new entry arrangements, where the Entrance Fee will provide a monthly credit to new members' accounts, will encourage a new surge of membership applications and with it, increased activity in the Club. And it is very pleasing to see that our new younger members in particular are wanting to play an increasingly active role in the Club. Older members can be pleased that the culture and the traditions of Tattersall's Club are likely to be in good safe hands for generations to come.

Sadly, we shall be losing Tim Bowring as Secretary. Tim has announced his intention to spend more time around his beloved Port Stephens base and so we have begun the search for a replacement. I shall let you know how this progresses and in a future edition will farewell Tim properly.

It is not often that I mention the sad passing of a former member of the Club. The untimely death of Phil King calls for an exception. Phil was a member of Tattersall's Club for many years and was active in surfing, swimming and skiing. Both Phil and his brother Tony are well known to many members. Phil became busy. He was managing partner of Sydney's top law firm - and member of this, that and every other board and professional body. Only a few weeks ago, he told me that he had again put some balance back into his life, was exquisitely happy in his new marriage and was ready to rejoin the Club. I had picked up the forms when I heard of his sudden and unexpected death. Phil was truly a gentleman and a joy to be around. He seemed to be bullet-proof and yet we shall not see the like of him again.

Russell Debney

Chairman





secretary's report

2003 promises to bring changes to this great club.

I have informed The Committee that I will be leaving Tattersalls during the first half of this year.

Having been associated with the club for nearly four years, it is time to seek new challenges. Generally I have enjoyed my time in the position of Secretary Manager, and am one of the few in that position who have served under two Chairmen.

During my time the club has undertaken some major changes. Who would have imagined the USOC taking over the Snooker Rooms in Sept/Oct 2000, the major refurbishment completed in 2000, and the transformation of the catering to the high level it has achieved during 2003. These accomplishments have only been possible with help of a dedicated loyal staff and some clear direction from within the committee.

I take this opportunity to thank the staff, who are one of the great assets of Tattersalls.

I will always remember the strong friendship I have developed with members, especially in the AD. Perhaps one day in the future I may apply to become a Member myself, of a club that will continue a great tradition established in 1858.

Thank you

Tim Bowring

Secretary

tattersalls into the year 2003

calendar of events

february

21st Super 12 Rugby members Bar
sponsored by Toohey's

27th Chairmans Shout

march

14th St Patrick's Day "Guinness and
Gourmet" 6.30pm Members Bar

april

4th Black Tie boxing tickets on sale

may

16th Black Tie boxing

tattersall's club

181 Elizabeth Street Sydney NSW 2000

www.tattersalls.club.org

Founded 1858

Telephone | 02 9264 6111

Facsimile | 02 9267 8312

Banqueting | 02 9263 9204

Athletic Dept | 02 9264 5624

Office Hours

8.30 am - 5 pm | Monday to Friday

Brasserie

7 am - 3.30 pm | Monday, Tuesday &
Friday

(bar meals available in the evening)

7 am - 9.30 pm | Wednesday & Thursday

Bar and Billiard Room

Noon - 9 pm | Monday to Wednesday

Noon - 10 pm | Thursday and Friday

Athletic Department

5.30 am - 9 pm | Monday to Friday

6 am - 6 pm | Saturday

Noon - 5 pm | Sunday

directory of services

club news

Tim Bowring Interview

Straight from the shoulder.

We question departing Club Secretary Tim Bowring

Tell us about yourself

I'm a country boy from Mildura Vic, (I am told my great, great, great grandfather who was the first trader in Wentworth, sold water bags to Burke and Wills for their pre-journey expedition from Pooncarie to Menindee), son of a fruitgrower, and spent my senior secondary education as a boarder at Xavier College in Melbourne. Following a tertiary education in hotel management/tourism, my wife and I did project management across the eastern states in the hospitality industry for ten years. In 1993, our three boys decided it was time to have a permanent home and we chose Nelson Bay.

Why are you leaving Tattersalls?

After three and a half years it is time to seek a new challenge. I commenced in the position of Marketing Manager and was acting Secretary within five months, taking over formally in 2000. Thus I have worked under two Chairmen and various Committeemen during some very interesting times.

Have you enjoyed your time at the Club?

Managing any registered club is not an easy task and Tattersall's is in some ways a difficult proposition. Many members are used to running their own organisations and are not shy of opinions. This has lead to staff being directed outside the proper channel of Chairman (or authorised Committee Member) to Management and then on to Staff.

The Club must ensure that the Management and staff are free from interference by individuals. Apart from the smooth running of the Club, the Secretary has legal obligations which can be compromised by directions that seemed like "a good idea at the time"

Our staff team are excellent, they have shown outstanding loyalty to the club at a time when numbers and hours have been reduced, yet productivity has increased. We are all indebted to their professionalism.

You are the longest serving Secretary since the club moved into the existing premises?

When I accepted the position of Secretary, I set out to achieve certain goals and to make the club a better place for Members. I believe I have achieved this,

Following the frequent turnover of secretaries in the nineties, the club needed stability of management. As the servant of the Members, I made a commitment to be accessible to them at all times. This has included being in the Athletic Department prior to 7am at least twice a week, speaking with the regulars on a daily basis in the bar and brasserie at lunchtime and attending as many as possible swimming breakfasts on Fridays.

This has developed the many friendships that I will always treasure.

What major changes have occurred during your term?

The newsletter for one. From an eight page black and white that was often error prone, to the twelve page full colour edition we now have.

The refurbishment of the club during late 1999 and 2000 has produced a premises envied by most clubs in the country.

The quality of food and service, especially over the last twelve months, under the stewardship of Simon Flanders, now has the club recognised throughout the country.

The maintenance of membership levels when all other CBD clubs, bar one, have experienced major declines over the last five years. The Athletic Department membership has steadily risen which will create space problems in time to come.



A good inn



Greener pastures in the back yard

Any advice for the Tattersalls in the future?

The club industry is at the crossroads, with the rise of gambling and better services within the hotel sector. CBD clubs are losing members daily and city clubs are not popular on weekends. Tattersalls can only survive in the present form if net membership increases by 15% over the next two years, rising to 3000 by 2008. Other sources of revenue such as functions may provide short term cash flow, however an increased membership base will provide the base for future development.

Most impressive person you've met while at Tattersalls?

Former Governor General, Sir William Dean

Worst Day ?

April 2002, gas leak in pool filtration. resulting in evacuation of club and staff being hospitalised. (including myself)

Most memorable day?

Being guests of the USOC at the

opening ceremony of The Olympics, and trying to get a Crown Lager for myself and the then Chairman at 1.30am from the sponsors tents.

Most underutilised asset of Tattersall?

The view and balcony on Level 17 - Plant Room.

Best perk with the job?

Developing the wine list to the standard it is today, and naturally trying before buying.

Outside Tattersall's, what has been your most satisfying experience?

1987 Topping the poll in Mildura City Council elections, with the platform of "keeping the b...s honest"

Best sporting achievement?

Playing 200 games of Aussie Rules and catching a 45lb. Murray Cod.

Most scary moment?

Carrying an umbrella over The Pope and being warned that if I tripped or made an unauthorised movement I would be shot.

Most memorable moment?

Flying in an open sided helicopter low over the Nymboida River, below the tree tops. while Tourism Manager in Coffs Harbour.

Civilised Saturday at Vince Maloney

A couple of Saturdays ago, high powered Ralph M., with wife Paula, strolled in. He had a suit jacket over his arm.

While one of us arranged parking his car, he put on the jacket and Paula said "See how that lapel looks sort of bulgy. Can you fix it?". (V.M. has, of course, a crash hot on-staff wizard who can and does fix pretty well anything).

Then, over coffee, the matter of Ralph's shirt came up. Paula produced a necktie from her handbag and said, "Ralph wears this tie with that shirt. He shouldn't should he?".

Diplomat Arthur said the tie would probably look very good backed up by this new soft blue shirt. It did. Win win situation.

Maloney Men learn a lot from wives. The wives learn a little, too, on occasion.



Vince Maloney On-The-Park
Next door to Tattersall's ph. 9264 8837

club news

Now, It's easier for your friends to join Tattersalls

Innovative fee structure rebates new member's joining fee

From the most humble to the greatest, every Club needs a growing membership. We have had great success with our plans to attract new Tattersall's members over the past twelve months, however we must continue the effort if the club is to continue to operate as the city haven that it is today.

We want your friends and colleagues to join us.

Every member has friends or colleagues who would enjoy the many benefits of our unique club and we'd like you to introduce them. To make it easier for them to join, the Committee has devised a new approach to the joining fee that does away with the pain of finding the normal lump sum \$1200.

Use it or lose it!

From 1 January this year, there will be no lump sum joining fee. Instead, new members will agree to have their House Account credited with \$100 per month for 12 months and charged against a credit card. (Under 30 Members fee will be \$50 per month for 12 months).

This monthly charge may be cleared/credited, wholly or partly, by purchases in the Brasserie/bar, or by attending a Members function.

So if a new member spends \$100 in the club each month for twelve months, his joining fee becomes nil. If he spends less than \$100 in any month, the club retains the difference.

The normal annual fees apply and may be paid monthly, quarterly or annually.

"This new fee structure will eliminate the

up front payment, and provide an avenue for new members to become acquainted with the club and its various functions, events and services," noted Membership Sub committee Convenor, Rick Glover.

"I urge Members to seriously consider nominating friends and colleagues for Membership of Tattersalls. The long term future of the club is dependent upon a vibrant active membership."

Do it now.

Non-members of Tattersall's often don't consider joining because they see it as an ivory tower that's almost impossible to approach. We know that's not true, so we rely on you, our members, to spread the faith. The following page has a membership application, if you'd like more, ring the office and we'll be happy to send them to you, or directly to your friends with our club brochure.



"I enjoy my club"



"Great member events"



Join the chairman on the last Thursday of each month following the committee meeting for free drinks in the members bar



Proposal Form for membership of Tattersalls

Members proposing or seconding a candidate for membership are required to give full details on this form. The proposer and seconder must have been Tattersalls members for a minimum of two years.

A member shall not propose or second a candidate for membership unless the candidate is personally known to him and he has taken reasonable steps to satisfy himself that the answers given in this proposal form are true and correct.

I hereby propose

for membership of Tattersalls.

I have known him for _____ years, I believe him to be a fit and proper person for membership and I certify that he is duly qualified in accordance with the rules of Tattersalls.

proposer

membership number

signature

date

I second

and I have known him for _____ years, I believe him to be a fit and proper person for membership and I certify that he is duly qualified in accordance with the rules of Tattersalls.

seconder

membership number

signature

date

The candidate must be a minimum of 18 years of age at the date of nomination. The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any person or persons who may be proposed for membership of Tattersalls. It is a condition precedent of membership of Tattersalls that a candidate agrees to be bound by the rules of Tattersalls, a copy of which is available at the office for perusal. Acceptance of membership is deemed agreement to accept the rules of Tattersalls.

Candidate Information

surname

given names

date of birth

age

residential address

postcode

telephone

facsimile

profession/occupation

business address

postcode

telephone

facsimile

mobile

email

mailing address ☐ home ☐ business

Full particulars of any employment and nature of that business

Has the candidate ever been bankrupt or insolvent or assigned his estate for the benefit of or entered into any composition with his creditors?

Any known legal suits or judgements against the applicant?

Declaration I hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge, information and belief the answers given to the foregoing questions are true and correct and that I have not withheld any information likely to affect the decision of the Committee of Tattersalls as to my eligibility for membership. If elected, I agree to abide by the rules of Tattersalls.

Signature of Candidate

Date

The 2002/2003 ocean swims season kicked off late last year with the Terrigal 6km ocean swim. Only Peter Thiel was crazy enough to compete, managing a 5th place in the 21 to 30 male category, completing the 6 km in 1hr 16 minutes.

The next swim in the series was the Coogee Wedding Cake Island swim. The conditions were rough, and the organisers changed the course to exclude the much anticipated swim around the island. The results are shown in the table opposite.

The next swim was the Bondi-Bronte race which attracted over 1000 entrants. There was a strong contingent from Tattersalls of at least 19. Exceptional results were obtained by John Demestre and Bruce Baird who won their age groups. It was also great to see John Konrads back in the water. Tattersalls also entered in the teams categories which were determined on cumulative ages. The over 130 years team consisting of John Demestre, Peter Thiel, Shaun Clyne and Simon Storry won the category narrowly from the fancied Bondi Icebergs team. The over 150 years team consisting of John Konrads, Richard Jagger, Kevin Smart and Cameron Duncan also won their category.

The Bilgola swim was the last for the year. The age groups were very wide, and the swim competitive. Tattersalls members included Brendan Maher who has become a regular on the circuit, finishing with a time of 36:33, Kevin Smart with 26:00 and Peter Thiel with 22:43.

2003 is already shaping up as a big year for the ocean swimming team, with large numbers expected in the Palm to Whale Beach swim and the Cole Classic.

The Swimming team also wishes Simon Storry all the best for his Rottnest Island swim challenge. Simon has decided to

do the entire 21 kilometre swim on his own this year. His training is going well, and he will be a force to be reckoned with this season.

Anyone who is interested in swimming in the series, please contact Peter Thiel through the gym. Also apologies to those who may have swum and who have been missed in the results column. We find it hard to keep track of all members.



"Is he another Thorpe"



"Great time!"

COOGEE SLSC CHALLENGE - Results Overall Category

Swimmer	Time	Place	Category	Place
Peter Thiel	0:26:31	14	M30-39	5
Simon Storry	0:26:49	16	M30-39	6
Robert Farrell	0:31:18	103	M40-49	14
Luke Morgan	0:31:45	120	M30-39	41
Bruce Baird	0:34:16	178	M50+	10
Phil Reichelt	0:38:43	314	M30-39	109
Brendan Maher	0:41:44	359	M40-49	76
Tom Nolan	0:48:58	409	M40-49	90

BONDI TO BRONTE SWIM - Results Overall Category

Swimmer	Time	Place	Category	Place
Peter Thiel	0:26:03	27	M30-34	2
John DeMestre	0:26:07	28	M40-44	1
Simon Storry	0:26:43	36	M30-34	7
Shaun Clyne	0:27:08	50	M30-34	9
Kevin Smart	0:29:31	113	M30-34	26
Richard Jagger	0:31:09	202	M25-29	40
Mark Preston	0:31:32	240	M45-49	7
Cameron Duncan	0:32:29	305	M35-39	50
Bruce Baird	0:32:31	310	M60-64	1
Nick Lefebre	0:33:19	356	M30-34	82
Michael Gallagher	0:33:47	382	M25-29	62
David Kemp	0:35:02	505	M25-29	74
Phil Huxtable	0:35:30	551	M20-24	17
Alan Israel	0:35:52	558	M40-44	50
Phil Reichelt	0:36:09	621	M30-34	139
Lachlan Benson	0:37:12	695	M25-29	102
John Konrads	0:39:03	817	M60-64	8
Brendan Maher	0:40:45	885	M40-44	83
Greg McMahon	0:43:59	982	M55-59	28

sport



Peter Joseph being presented with a magnum of champagne from John Konrads whilst Cesar Puertolas looks on



Enjoying my time at Tattersalls

Dear Athletic Department Members,

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone I've met so far, for making me feel welcome and offering their support.

My first assignment is to briefly chat with all members simply to assess their current health and determine their likes and dislikes towards regular exercise.

It is my immediate intention to promote a greater array of training alternatives for all members. Currently our department offers a range of classes, personalised programs and structured swimming squads. Our aim is to generate greater interest within the facility, improve member retention and improve on the general health of all users.

The New Year will now offer the following exercise options.

Each month I will place an exercise program on the main notice board. The program will be called "**Guaranteed Results**". The program will be appropriate for 80% of all members. The objective of the program is to produce the following results:

- Improve heart & lung capacity
- Lower or maintain blood pressure
- Promote the use of fat as a fuel source
- De-stress the mind

The program will be clearly outlined and displayed in the gym. All staff will have a sound knowledge of the program and I encourage you to question them when possible. The program will be appropriate for all fitness levels as the intensity

protocol will revolve around one's perceived effort. I guarantee results!

Secondly, I will promote a monthly theme. Once again, this simply acts as another training alternative. The month of February will feature "**Reaching your Swimming Potential**". Not only will I display an easy to follow program displayed in the gym, but I will be holding a workshop to explain the program clearly.

Stay tuned to both new training alternatives. Please remember that should any member require a specific training program (eg. cycling, cardio rehab, lower back management) please do not hesitate to approach our very capable staff. Further still, should you wish to discuss anything regarding the operation of the Athletic Department, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Let's have a healthy and entertaining 2003.

Brad Pamp

Athletic Department

athletic department

RED HOT SPECIALS FROM ANYWHERE TRAVEL

AIRFARE SPECIALS

- ✈ Japan Airlines Business Class Companion fare to London & Europe from \$4950 (based on two persons travelling together).
- ✈ Singapore Airlines & United Airlines around World Business class airfare from \$6650.
- ✈ Thai International & Lufthansa First class to London & Europe from \$7285.
- ✈ Los Angeles on Air New Zealand, Economy class from \$1795 "KIDS FLY FREE". Valid 02 Feb to 19 June 03.
- ✈ London/Europe on Japan Airlines, Economy class from \$1720. Valid to 31 March 03.
- ✈ London/Europe on Lufthansa, Economy class from \$1795. Via USA, Bangkok, Singapore, Hong Kong or Tokyo.
- ✈ Round the World, 5 Stops, Economy class from \$2550 "STARLITE FARE".
- ✈ Dublin/Europe on Qantas/British Airways, Economy class from \$1799
- ✈ London/Europe on Swiss International Airlines via South Africa, Economy class from \$2099.

*Associated Airport Taxes ARE INCLUDED

AUSTRALIA PACKAGES

- ✈ 5-STAR DUNK ISLAND FROM \$749* pp Includes 5 nights accommodation, full buffet breakfast daily, table d'hote or themed buffet dinners each night, all non-motorised water-sports. Valid to 31 Mar 03.
- ✈ TAX FREE IN NORFOLK ISLAND fr \$1037* pp Just 2.5 hours from Sydney, Norfolk's prices are both GST and tax-free in stores that specialise in Italian leather shoes, handbags, Lladro and Royal Dalton pottery, Waterford crystal, Irish linens, quality toys and alcohol. Includes return economy air, 6-nights twin share, Continental breakfasts daily, a free rental car with unlimited kilometres, return airport/hotel transfers, and all ticketed airport taxes. Valid to 31 Mar 03.
- ✈ NOOSA BLUE RESORT (LAND ONLY) fr \$195* 2 nights accommodation in a Deluxe Suite, Continental breakfast daily, Bottle of wine on arrival, 10% discount off resort massages.*Per person, twin share. Valid to 31 Mar 03.

For all enquiries call

INTERNATIONAL PACKAGES

- ✈ NEW ZEALAND FLY/DRIVE FROM \$689* pp Includes Return economy class airfare with Air New Zealand, 6 days car hire with unlimited kms & insurance, all Australian airport taxes.
- ✈ ESSENTIAL NEW YORK GETAWAY fr. \$2786* Includes return economy air travel on Qantas Airways, Sydney to New York and associated taxes/charges, 4 nights accommodation at the Milford Plaza, return coach transfers airport/hotel, 90 minute harbour cruise, A Taste of New York Helicopter Tour, New York CityPass, Lunch or dinner at the Hard Rock café. Valid for sale to 12 Feb 03, for travel to 28 Mar 03.
- ✈ HONOLULU GLOBAL GETAWAY from \$1229* Includes return economy air travel on Qantas Airways, Sydney to Honolulu and associated taxes/charges, 5 nights accommodation at the Waikiki Gateway, light refreshment daily. Valid for sale to 12 Feb 03, for travel 2 Feb – 25 Mar 03.
- ✈ 'AMERICA ON SALE' FROM \$1799* pp Includes return economy class airfare with Qantas to Los Angeles, 6 nights accommodation staying at Super 8 Motels, 1 day Disney California Adventure ticket, all applicable airport taxes.
- ✈ FIJI FUN IN THE SUN from \$1051* pp Includes Return Economy Class airfares flying Qantas Airways to Nadi, 5 nights accom at First Landing Resort in a Superior Garden Bure, Return seat-in-coach or launch transfers, Shell Lei meet & greet, all associated taxes, levies and charges. **BONUS: Daily Continental Breakfast, One lobster dinner for two, Free Viseisei Village Tour, Stay 5 nights pay for 4. Upgrade to a Deluxe Garden Bure.** Valid for sale to 07 Mar 03. Valid for travel 24 Apr - 1 Jul 03.
- ✈ HONG KONG SURELY VALENTINE \$1225* pp Includes return economy class airfares flying Cathay Pacific to Hong Kong, 4 nights accommodation at the Stanford Hillview, return seat in coach transfers and associated taxes/charges. Valid for sale to 12 Feb 03, for travel to 31 Mar 03.
- ✈ 'LONDON FLY / DRIVE' FROM \$1999* pp Includes Return economy class airfare with Qantas & British Airways, 12 days Hertz Rent a Car group "A" manual in the UK, all applicable airport taxes.

Barbara Whitten at Anywhere Travel. Email: barbaraw@anywheretravel.com.au

Or **Victor Zaratian** email: victorz@anywheretravel.com.au

345 Anzac Parade, Kingsford, NSW 2032 Phone: 9663 0411 Fax: 9662 2860

"taste."



Have you tried the new Brasserie Menu?

Executive Chef, Simon Flanders invites you to enjoy our fine food and wines while relaxing overlooking Hyde Park

**WYNNS
COONAWARRA
BLACK TIE
BOXING**

16 May

Tickets on sale
9am 7 April

DO NOT MISS OUT BE EARLY

(note the Tattersalls Booking Policy regarding cancellations)

**NSW WARATAHS v
AUCKLAND BLUES**

Friday 21 Feb

MEMBERS BAR FROM 7.30PM

SPONSORED BEER BY TOOHEYS FREE
UP UNTIL THE FIRST TRY IS SCORED

FOOTY FOOD ON THE BAR

BRING YOUR FRIENDS, KICK OFF THE
SEASON IN STYLE

SEE YOU THERE

ST PATRICKS DAY BEER AND GOURMET TASTING

Friday 14 March

6.30pm

MEMBERS BAR

Bring your friends and enjoy the best of Irish food and Guinness, plus a selection of local and imported beers.

We talk to Tony Anderson

Real Estate Expert · Sportsman

Where were you brought up?

I was born and bred out at Warren 700 km N/W of Sydney. My Dad was the local pharmacist.

At twelve I went away to school at St Ignatius College, Lane Cove. Boarding there was fantastic; all your mates around you, sport every day, plenty of grounds, it's on the river... swam, played rugby and tennis. I loved it

What did you do when you left school?

I went home and worked on a cotton farm for a short period but I was keen to get into the fast life in Sydney. My first job was in the mail room of LJ Hooker 1976. I thought property management meant rural /farm management! I was with Hookers for eleven years and ended up in head office in commercial sales and investment.

In 1988 another Tatt's member Rob Farrell and I started our own business, setting up Laing + Simmons Commercial. In 1997 we bought the Laing + Simmons Corporation which is a franchise business of 50 residential real estate branches, so we now have a real estate business and a brand licensing business.

How is the current commercial real estate market?

It's good. There's a bit of vacancy in the Sydney City commercial market, but that will eventually get consumed and the next building cycle will start. We're not seeing any reduction in commercial values. There's an enormous amount of money out in the market place with compulsory superannuation and a percentage of that must go towards property.

Domestically, there is a chronic oversupply of apartments within the CBD and inner-city markets, vacancy rates are high and many investors can only support borrowings for a limited period without tenant income. I expect to see values continue to peel back for this type of property, in turn creating a possible hot spot for buyers later this year.

Anywhere you can make money, there's a risk and property is no different.

How do you see Sydney as a business centre for real estate

It's the number one city in Australia. We have a good old arm wrestle with Melbourne, but working here is a lot more fun.

Do you still play sport?

After school I played rugby for Easts, then league for Souths Juniors, then I went back to Union playing for the Old Ignations who have won first division sub districts Club Championships the past 3 years. Golf is the next thing.

How did you find League?

Bloody hard. But I enjoyed it. The fundamental difference to Union is that there's a lot more physical body contact. In League when you kill the man you kill the ball, but in Rugby Union, when you kill the man, the ball's still alive. League is body-bashing stuff.

I now play prop and hooker for Old Ignations rugby team (I used to be a back but age got the better of me), surf, touch footy & social comp tennis.

A few years ago Phil Wolenski, Paul L'Estrange (fellow property industry identities) and I did the Flying Doctor car bash in a Humber Super Snipe - it was sort of head to Birdsville then turn left. Surviving that was tougher than any football game!! Great fun.

You still love swimming?

I've always loved swimming. In 1987 Norm Rogers and Stu McCallum put together a gun side (Neil Rogers, Mick Gillis, John DeMestre, Max Metzker, Jim Tuite, Rob Farrell & Dennis Wilson) to win the Maui Channel swim race and we got pipped by a body-length after sixteen k's of swimming. We went every year after for maybe six or seven years and now Tatt's have started going again. The Yanks just loved the lads from Tatt's, they knew there was some serious partying to be done (after the race of course!).

How did you join Tattersall's?

My business partner Rob Farrell introduced me. I dine and entertain a lot, attend the functions like the rugby functions and Black Tie Boxing, I swim - although less frequently now - maybe I'll put that on the New Year's resolution... and I've discovered golf, I joined the Lakes and played in Tatt's championship this year and didn't finish last (my partner can't say the same).

I think rugby's going to fall away and it could be this year.

Now I live at Lane Cove, not that far from my alma mata with my lovely wife Katrina and three children.

